



Louisiana Coastlines

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

SPRING 2005

EPA commends Coastal Wetlands Conservation Plan

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released in May, a four-page report on Louisiana's activities under the 2002-2003 Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation Plan. The report is required under the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act. EPA commends Governor Blanco

and the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources for their collaboration with landowners and other groups to help protect and restore coastal resources.

"Saving Louisiana's coast is one of our highest priorities," said Richard Greene, EPA's Regional Administrator. "Together with our partners, we are hard at work completing ongoing projects and beginning new ones to restore, improve and protect this valuable treasure. We look forward

to the success of these efforts being highlighted in the next report."

The Conservation Plan is a vital part of the broader state and

federal efforts to protect and restore Louisiana's coastal wetlands and barrier islands.

On Earth Day 2005, President Bush announced that approximately 832,000 acres

of wetlands have been preserved in the first year of his five-year commitment to create, improve and protect at least three million wetland acres.

EPA recommends several actions in the report, including:

- Expedited use of remaining mitigation funds
- Review of existing mitigation projects
- Continued support of devel-

opment of marsh mitigation banks

- Accurate assessment of actual cost of compensatory mitigation
- Ensuring consistency between coastal restoration and development
- Consideration of ways to promote environmentally appropriate tourism

A copy of the report is available at www.epa.gov/region6/6xa/pdf/coastal_wetlands_plan.pdf.



Ed Britton and Christine Charrier, both Coastal Resource Scientists (DNR Coastal Management Division) are pictured here conducting field work as part of the coastal conservation plan.

Louisiana Clean Marina Certification Announced

By: Linda Pace
Coastal Management Project Manager

On May 18, 2005, James Huey, President of the Board of Commissioners of the Orleans Levee District accepted Clean Marina certificates for the levee district's two marinas located on the south shore of Lake Pontchartrain, the South Shore Harbor Marina and the Orleans Marina. These marinas will now become part of the Clean Marina team and will offer expertise to other marinas that want to become a Louisiana Clean Marina.

The Louisiana Clean Marina Program, administered by the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, Coastal Management Division, is a voluntary program to reduce nonpoint source pollution associated with marinas and recreational boaters. DNR, in collaboration with the Louisiana Sea Grant College Program and other state partnering agencies, developed the Louisiana Clean Marina Program by reviewing similar programs in the Gulf and Atlantic coastal states, researching legal issues, involving other relevant state and federal agencies, conducting work sessions with marina owners to garner their input and support, and ultimately, producing the Louisiana Clean Marina Guidebook and final plan. The program was designed to fulfill the state's responsibilities pursuant to federal Coastal Zone Management Act amendments.

Designated Clean Marinas voluntarily adopt and adhere to a set of pollution-reducing best management practices and receive official recognition for



Shown here are Bob Maureau, Marina Manager for the Orleans Levee District, James P. Huey, President of the Board of Commissioners of the Orleans Levee District and Gerry Duszynski, DNR Acting Assistant Secretary of the Office of Coastal Restoration and Management and others show off the "Clean Marina" banner and certificates.

doing so. Clean Marina certification shows patrons that your marina cares for the environment. Marina operators request a copy of the Louisiana Clean Marina Guidebook and a self-assessment checklist. These documents describe practical ways to reduce pollution, educate boaters and maintain the environment while increasing the marina's business. When the marina operator feels his or her facility is ready, a Louisiana Clean Marina Program representative will visit and provide a preliminary assessment. The representative can provide advice on areas in which the marina may need help in meeting the checklist criteria. Once the marina meets at least a minimum score on the checklist, the marina will be awarded "Louisiana Clean Marina" designation.

Through voluntary participation in this program, Louisiana marinas have an opportunity to promote their businesses, educate boaters, maintain

the environment and protect coastal waters.

For more information on the Louisiana Clean Marina Program, please visit <http://dnr.louisiana.gov/cleanmarina>

Gregory J. DuCote
Clean Marina Coordinator
LA Department of Natural Resources
Coastal Management Division
1-800-267-4019
225-342-5052
gregory.ducote@la.gov



The South Shore Harbor Marina was one of the first marinas to become part of the Clean Marina team.



Rainey Sanctuary Restoration Project Featured

DNR Acting Assistant Secretary Gerry Duszynski, joined key coastal officials from the public and private sector to celebrate the completion of one of the largest National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and Restore America's Estuaries (RAE) community-based restoration efforts in the country. Last month, representatives of the National Audubon Society, NOAA, DNR, the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana (CRCL), Restore America's Estuaries (RAE) and Vermilion Parish Library celebrated the completed of a 640 acre coastal restoration project located in the Paul J. Rainey Audubon Sanctuary. The restoration project constructed approximately 36,000 linear feet of earthen terraces within sanctuary one of the National Audubon Society's oldest and largest wildlife refuge. The completion of this project marks the successful partnership of the public and private sectors working to restore and protect the wildlife habitat of coastal Louisiana. The funding of \$820,000 was provided in part by a direct Congressional appropriation to the Department of Natural Resources, a community-based restoration grant from the NOAA Restoration Center and RAE-CRCL, and by direct and in-kind contributions from the National Audubon Society.



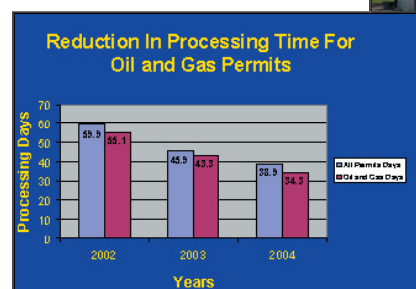
Gerry Duszynski (pictured far right) addresses participants at a ceremony in Vermilion Parish on Earth Day along with CRCL Executive Director Mark Davis and NOAA Chief of Staff Scott Rayder. In the group photo (pictured far left) are officials also attending the ceremony: State Representative Mickey Frith, Audubon Chief Operating Officer Robert Perciasepe, NOAA Chief of Staff Scott Rayder, Rep. Boustany's district staffer Tommy Hebert, CRCL Executive Director Mark Davis, Governor's Office on Coastal Activities' Program Coordinator Cynthia Duet, Sen. Vitter's district staffer Nicole Hebert, Duszynski, NOAA Restoration Center Marine Habitat Resource Specialist Cheryl Brodnax, State Senator Nick Gautreaux.

DNR Secretary Angelle explains MOU benefits

Natural Resources Secretary Scott Angelle and Wildlife and Fisheries Secretary Dwight Landreneau announced a new Memorandum of Understanding agreement between the state agencies at an official signing event on April 1st in Scott, LA. In May, Secretary Angelle provided a letter to members of the Louisiana Independent Oil and Gas Association (LIOGA), legislators, and the administration explaining the streamlining of the coastal use permitting process.

Listed are some of the key benefits of the MOU:

- Commitment of DNR and DWF to establish deadlines
- Standardized permit conditions for certain project types
- Defined, time-limited process for resolving disputes
- Faster time to receive permits
- Cost savings to applicants



Get Ready for a Busy, Stormy Hurricane Season

Get ready for a stormy 2005 hurricane season! Climatologists are in for a busy season predicting storms. As the season starts in June and continues through November, the country will need to prepare for seven major storms this season, according to the noted hurricane expert, Professor William Gray of Colorado State University.

Gray's perditions for 2005:

- 13 named storms with 7 hurricanes and 3 intense hurricanes
- landfall probability for a Category 3 or higher hitting somewhere in the U.S.: 73 percent
- probability of hitting Florida and the East coast: 53 percent
- probability of hitting the Gulf Coast: 41 percent
- Expected above-average major hurricane landfall risk in the Caribbean

Gray's forecast has been updated since his December predictions when he pointed to 11 tropic storms, six hurricanes and three major hurricanes. This month, the noted climatologist forecasted 13 named tropical storms in the Atlantic, seven of which will become hurricanes with three turning into major storms with winds clocking speed excess of 110 miles per hour. Gray predicted that at least that many hurricanes including three or more with winds of more than 110 mph could hit the country.

Although many climatologist predict that this season will be busier than normal; however, it appears that this year will not be as active as 2004 when there were 15 named storms, nine hurricanes six of which were major that created havoc in the Ca-

ribbean and in the U.S. As predicted, there were 14 named storm of which nine were hurricanes.

Forecasters and planners urge the public to prepare and be aware of

precautions before, after or even during a hurricane. One of the most important steps is to plan ahead; do not wait

to the last second to plan for a hurricane. They strongly advise to take time to carefully review potential

problems and solutions so that your family will know how to cope with a violent storm.

2005 Atlantic Storm Names

**Arlene
Bret
Cindy
Dennis
Emily
Franklin
Gert
Harvey
Irene
Jose
Katrina
Lee
Marla
Nate
Ophelia
Phillippe
Rita
Stan
Tammy
Vince
Wilma**

"Coastal Crisis" World Premiere

Saturday, June 11, 2005
7:00 - 8:00 PM CST
THE SCIENCE CHANNEL

The tragedy of Louisiana's coastal land loss and the ongoing fight to save America's WETLAND has brought out the best in Louisiana's coastal scientists who are quickly turning America's WETLAND into a hotbed of research on coastal restoration and deltaic and estuarine issues.

Nowhere is their story told in a more compelling and innovative way, than in the new hour-long documentary co-produced by The Science Channel and the America's WETLAND Campaign. The film uses compelling computer generated images, time-lapse photography and unique camera perspectives to tell the tale of coastal Louisiana's race against nature.



Underwater Obstructions Notice and Coordinates

In accordance with the provisions of R.S. 56:700.1 et. seq., notice is given that 26 claims in the amount of \$81,097.08 were received for payment during the period February 1, 2005 - April 30, 2005. There were 23 claims paid and 3 claims denied.

Loran Coordinates of reported underwater obstructions are:

26707	46975	CAMERON
27750	46880	TERREBONNE
28307	46826	LAFOURCHE
28331	46830	LAFOURCHE

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates of reported underwater obstructions are:

29 00.560	89 05.700	LAFOURCHE
29 04.990	90 53.730	TERREBONNE
29 13.239	90 02.634	JEFFERSON
29 15.392	90 05.652	LAFOURCHE
29 15.630	89 55.770	JEFFERSON

29 16.750	90 22.111	TERREBONNE
29 17.329	89 57.034	ST BERNARD
29 19.577	89 28.685	PLAQUEMINES
29 21.157	91 28.074	ST MARY
29 24.338	90 03.023	JEFFERSON
29 25.465	91 46.700	VERMILION
29 28.470	89 31.990	PLAQUEMINES
29 28.667	90 08.504	LAFOURCHE
29 31.860	90 08.800	JEFFERSON
29 32.673	92 03.477	VERMILION
29 40.851	89 26.408	ST BERNARD
29 41.563	89 14.794	ST BERNARD
29 43.982	91 51.304	ST MARY
29 45.503	89 46.427	ST BERNARD
29 51.348	89 40.417	ST BERNARD
29 51.839	93 20.671	CAMERON
29 56.872	89 50.866	ST BERNARD

A list of claimants and amounts paid can be obtained from Verlie Wims, Administrator, Fishermen's Gear Compensation Fund, P.O. Box 44277, Baton Rouge, LA 70804 or call (225)342-0122.

NOAA Visits CMD for Section 312 Review

DNR Coastal Management Division's Assistant Administrator Jim Rives is no stranger to the Section 312 Review conducted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). For 16 years now, Rives has spearheaded the coordination of the Review for the Louisiana Coastal Resources Program (LCRP). In March of this year, his leadership role in the review process was put into action once more.

According to Rives, the state receives funding under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, for its federally approved Louisiana Coastal Management Program. Louisiana is empowered to use its federal consistency authority to ensure that federal activities are carried out consistently with the program. The Coastal Zone Management Act requires NOAA to review the state's implementation of its approved coastal management program and adhere to the terms of its federal grants. The review is conducted on a three to five year cycle. The state's last review was conducted in

2002, and the program received good marks with no "required necessary actions." This means, state officials did not have to implement changes to the administration of the program in order to continue to receive funding. According to Rives, "Louisiana is one of 34 states and territories to have a federally approved coastal management program. It is part of a management system which includes the U. S. coasts of the Great Lakes, Caribbean Sea, and the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

Rives notes several ways the review process benefits DNR. The evaluation process enhances communication and promotes awareness of the coastal program. Part of the process includes meetings with public and private groups and individuals interested in the LCRP. Rives says, the Review Team receives feedback about the program or suggestions to improve the program. "The meetings help oil and gas representatives and the public to better understand the program and permitting process." Rives says. He says, "The review process helps

the coastal staff to form stronger bonds with stakeholders such as the oil and gas communities and state and federal agencies.

The review meetings provided a forum for key coastal players from all regions and backgrounds to share their views and vision on the program.

The NOAA evaluation team will prepare a set of findings meant to summarize the program, provide suggestions and identify areas of improvement. This year's Review Team consisted of Chris McCay of the NOAA Evaluations Division; Carleigh Trappe and Josh Lott of the NOAA Coastal Program Division; and Janis Helton of the Alabama Coastal Program.

"We know that the preliminary findings from the review were favorable," Rives says. "We hope the outcome of this review is as positive as past performances and look forward to NOAA's concluding report in the coming weeks," he said.



Know Your Coastal Zone Manager

Jefferson Parish Administrator, Jason Smith

Jefferson Parish
Department of Environmental Affairs
4901 Jefferson Highway, Suite E
Jefferson, LA 70121



Jason Smith, Administrator

Jefferson Parish Coastal Zone Management Program

Phone: (504)731-4612

Fax: (504)731-4607

E-mail: jsmith@jeffparish.net

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Note: The Jefferson Parish Coastal Zone Management Program is operated within the Jefferson Parish Department of Environmental Affairs.

Why do you like your Job?

The Coastal Program Administrator is faced with many challenges regarding development in our coastal zone. One aspect of the job I enjoy most is helping and guiding applicants through the wetlands regulatory permitting process, which often overwhelms and confuses many people. It allows you the opportunity to sit down with applicants to advise and offer them alternative ideas that can be utilized to develop their property in a more environmentally friendly way. Seeing the results can be most satisfying. Our office has always had an open door policy and has provided a very user friendly environment for the public.

What is your favorite pastime?

I love eating, as well as traveling when offered the opportunity. I enjoy eating out with my wife at various types of restaurants, whether they consist of swanky establishments that serve intricate portions of food on fine china in masterful ways or from the back ally broken down hole in the wall type eateries that dole out huge portions on paper plates. The variety of good quality food in New Orleans is incredible. The restaurants are so numerous, that you can typically find an eatery around every corner. When traveling, it's always enjoyable to eat where the locals do or at establishments that provide that unique experience, whether the style of the building or decor entices you in the front door or from the people who serve the food.

What is your favorite book?

"Saigon." The novel entitled "Saigon" by author Anthony Grey describes a young man's fascination with Vietnam's mysteries and complexities from 1925 to the end of the war in 1975.

Do you have any words of wisdom for our younger generation?

Look at life as the glass being half full rather than half empty.



Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 44487
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-4487

To become an E-subscriber:
Send an e-mail addressed to
info@dnr.state.la.us. In the mes-
sage box type your full name and
telephone number.

Editorial Staff:

Phyllis Darensbourg, Editor
Cynthia Poland, PIO Writer
Charity Glaser, Design/PIO Writer
Peggy Rooney, CMD Writer



This newsletter was produced by the Coastal Management Division under award NA-04NOS4190040 from the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The statements, findings, conclusions, and recommendations are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of OCRM or NOAA.

